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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01
AID-05 EUR-12 /100 W
----------123193 291020Z /17
P R 290920Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3702
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV SY US XF
SUBJ: SYRIAN REACTION TO US JUNE 27 STATEMENT

1. DURING JUNE 28 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI I GAVE HIM COPY OF JUNE 27 STATEMENT WHICH HE PROCEEDED TO READ WORD BY WORD, WRINKLING HIS FACE IN DISAGREEMENT WHEN HE CAME TO PORTION REGARDING NATURE OF FINAL PEACE. HE COMMENTED AT THE END THAT STATEMENT IN ITS OVERALL WAS TIMELY AND POSITIVE AND WOULD HELP ALLAY SYRIAN CONCERN REGARDING PRESIDENT CARTER'S DETERMINATION TO PERSEVERE IN SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE. SYRIA, DAOUDI CONTINUED, WAS WAITING TO SEE WHETHER USG COULD RESIST ZIONIST PRESSURES TO DELAY AND FORGET ABOUT ISSUE AS PAST US PRESIDENTS HAD BEEN PERSUADED TO DO."

2. DAOUDI ASSERTED THAT ARAB DESIRE FOR PEACE REMAINS STRONG AND CONFLUENCE OF ARAB INTERESTS THAT WOULD
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PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS REMAINS INTACT. THESE CONDITIONS WOULD NOT HOLD FOREVER THOUGH AND ARABS WOULD NOT ACCEPT STATUS QUO. IF THAT BECAME ONLY ALTERNATIVE THEN ANOTHER WAR WAS INEVITABLE.

3. ISRAELI POLICY WAS CLEAR, DAOUDI CONTINUED, DAYAN HAD PERSUADED BEGIN TO STOP MAKING STATEMENTS SUCH AS REFERRING

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TO WEST BANK AS "LIBERATED TERRITORIES," SINCE
THESE HARMED ISRAELI IMAGE ABROAD. BUT DAYAN AND BEGIN WERE
IN AGREEMENT ON POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED, I.E., ACT BUT SPEAK
SOFTLY. DAOUDI SAID SYRIA FEARED THERE WOULD BE MAJOR ISRAELI
EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OVER
COMING MONTHS UNDER UMBRELLA OF TALK ABOUT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
HE URGED US TO FOCUS ON FACTS AND NOT ALLOW SUCH TALK TO
UNDERMINE DETERMINATION WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER HAD SHOWN
SYRIANS AT GENEVA.

4. LATER SAME DAY DEPUTY FONMIN KHANI DREW ME ASIDE AT
RECEPTION TO SAY US STATEMENT WAS GOOD AND IT CAME AT RIGHT
TIME. PERHAPS, HE MUSED, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE EUROPEANS TO
ISSUE A NEW DECLARATION OF THEIR OWN. IN ANY EVENT IT WAS
ENCOURAGING TO ARABS WHO FEARED PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT BE
BACKING DOWN IN FACE OF CURRENT ZIONIST PRESSURE CAMPAIGN.

5. LIBYAN AMBASSADOR HAD EXPECTED REACTION WHEN ASKED HIS
VIEWS, "YOU GIVE THEM ARMS AND US WORDS. NOTHING HAS CHANGED."
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, SY, US, XF
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